11/25/67

Dear Maggie,

Please forgive my not having changed the ribbon. I've caught up on the accumulation of mail, written a few that had to be, and before getting back to constructive work I want to write you briefly as I did Ray to suggest the real thing behind Thompson.

Geis is a manufacturer. He manufactures books for the market. He has a remarkable sense about money and with promotions. I believe he has the principles that would demean a third-grade barnyard. He told me two years ago he would not touch this subject in any aspect. I got sleepy and dozed after writing Ray. Geis is what I should add to what I told him, because it fits. In my nap it came to me.

This is the man who has scurrility prefabricated and the reprint rights sold for vast sums, like $ 250,000, before publication.

Thompson, with or without guidance, has come up with the only possible formula that can rescue the government at home. The Commission was really right, only a little bit wrong. It was Oswald, it was (fatal)from that window, and there was no conspiracy, although there were three assassins. Wild? But accepted thus far. I've scorched the Post, for whatever good that does. Here the government can thank the bring young doctors (every one on our side a fink) for showing them the way. With the passage of time, others who just got the same idea for the same time and chose the same spot for its execution-but independent of Oswald,-are an acceptable addition to the lone unassisted. This makes them seem to give a little, to make a gesture toward acknowledging error -the error that everybodythinks exists. Yet it rectifies nothing, particularly because this way no assassins will ever turn up.

And everyone is off the hook. Especially your friendly President. The one who has to worry is Bobby, who may yet get conned into supporting this one. Also, perhaps, some of the eminences. If they pull this, we may look like nuts. We'd better think.

Vince seems to be close to Thompson. Haven't read the book, which Liebeler likes so much (tip off), but I've heard Thompson for a long radio show and he comes through like a soft-spoken left fascist who steals everything he can and is so honorable and even-handed and respectable about it. He makes clear he is not a "critic". He also failed to mention Sylvia as a critic (Jane and me, and when asked his relations he deftly avoided by saying we'd never met). He is slick, bright and totally without scruple. He lies glibly, and I do not think it is ignorance, and lectures those who are right for being right with a professorial condescension that I'm sure goes over to most listeners. In short, a very bad one, and I think he'll get all the time he wants. From what he said on radio and what he has in Post, he has purloined everything he wanted and claimed originality. I couldn't sleep after hearing him until 2 a.m. I've been about since 5, so you see the effect it had on me. I do not often get this disturbed.

If I can get any time for it, I'll go after him.

All of you were wonderful. Many,many thanks. Hope to see you all soon. S has not responded to my last letter, which you saw. I think Tink ends it. Vince, too, as the letter sent Ray will show, for I've been silent too long and too trusting.

Sincerely,

PS I've sent Art a new radical-right lead, a copy of the Dean tape, and as soon as I get it back from dubbing, the Castorr interview, which I hope you will be able to hear. It may not have all that in the original interview, but it does have most of it. Goos novel there. Maybe movie.